

T-637  
Fairbank House  
St. Michaels  
private

c. 1880 and earlier

The Fairbank house is one of the few three-part telescope dwellings to remain standing in St. Michaels. Peculiar to this Water Street house is that the main block contains the remnants of a single-story, one-room plan, wrought-nail frame structure that was later reused in the construction plans to enlarge the early building into a dwelling. The 1877 St. Michaels town map indicates two separate structures on the site, whereas the 1896 Sanborn Insurance map reveals that a dwelling was on the site with a detached kitchen and cobbler shop. Although the house has been extensively renewed inside, the basic stepped character of the exterior was maintained, and original materials were kept when possible.

The age and history of the single-story wrought-nail building that is buried within the two-story main block is somewhat clouded, but the best argument places it on the property of John Dorgan as a utility building of some kind. John Dorgan purchased Lot 58 in 1784 two years after he had acquired Lot 57 from Jonathan Spencer. John Dorgan mortgaged the two lots in 1808, and in 1831 the property was sold at the courthouse door in Easton by the Farmers configuration of the house was achieved during the late nineteenth century when the corner lot was owned by Oliver and Rachel Lednum Fairbank. The Fairbank family owned the property until 1984.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. T-637

Magi No. 2106372604

DOE yes no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

FAIRBANK HOUSE

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 417 Water Street not for publicationcity, town St. Michaels vicinity of congressional district Firststate Maryland county Talbot

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u>district</u>	<u>public</u>	<u>x</u> occupied	<u>agriculture</u>	<u>museum</u>
<u>x building(s)</u>	<u>x private</u>	<u>unoccupied</u>	<u>commercial</u>	<u>park</u>
<u>structure</u>	<u>both</u>	<u>work in progress</u>	<u>educational</u>	<u>x private residence</u>
<u>site</u>	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>entertainment</u>	<u>religious</u>
<u>object</u>	<u>in process</u>	<u>x yes: restricted</u>	<u>government</u>	<u>scientific</u>
	<u>being considered</u>	<u>yes: unrestricted</u>	<u>industrial</u>	<u>transportation</u>
	<u>x not applicable</u>	<u>no</u>	<u>military</u>	<u>other:</u>

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. and Mrs. William Kolva

street &amp; number 417 Water Street telephone no.:

city, town St. Michaels state and zip code MD 21663

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Clerk of Court liber 591street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 252city, town Easton state MD

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. T-637

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved      date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Fairbank house stands at 417 Water Street on the northeast corner of the intersection of Water and East Chestnut streets in the center of St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland. The two-story frame house faces west with the gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Built in stages, the frame house has recently undergone an extensive renovation that retained the basic shape and exterior appearance but renewed the entire interior. Upon examination when the house had been gutted, it was clear that a squarish, single story frame structure fastened together with wrought nails comprised the front portion of the main block. Around 1870-1880 the early braced frame was reused in the construction plan to transform the shop into a two-story dwelling. Supported by a new brick foundation, the house is sheathed with a uniform layer German siding, and the house is covered by steeply pitched asphalt shingle gable roofs. Recently erected behind the house is a single-story, two-bay garage.

The west (main) elevation of the house is an asymmetrical three-bay facade with a side entrance and flanking six-over-two sash windows hung with louvered shutters. The four-panel front door is framed by a four-light transom and four-light sidelights. The entire first floor is sheltered by a hip roof porch supported by Tuscan columns. Stretching between the columns is a square baluster handrail. The second floor is lighted by three unevenly spaced six-over-six sash windows, and the boxed cornice above is trimmed with a row of decorative brackets.

The south gable end of the house is marked by a pair of six-over-two sash windows on the first floor and a pair of six-over-six sash on the second floor. Each window retains louvered shutters. Lighting the third floor is a smaller sized window without shutters.

The north gable end is partially covered by the two-story, three-bay service wing. A six-over-six sash window lights the second floor, and a tripartite window illuminates the attic. A triangular vent fits within the peak of the eave.

The south side of the service wing is an asymmetrical three-bay elevation with three six-over-two sash windows on the first floor and two six-over-six sash lighting the second floor. A seam in the weatherboards is located between the first and second bay from the south. There is a single-story one-room section attached to the north end of the service wing. During the recent renovation, a two-story porch was stretched across the back (east) of the service wing.

The interiors have been completely renewed.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. T-637

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

## Specific dates

## Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Fairbank house is one of the few three-part telescope dwellings to remain standing in St. Michaels. The two-story main block contains the remnants of a single story, one-room plan wrought-nail frame structure that was later reused in the construction program to enlarge the building into a dwelling. The Sanborn Insurance map from 1896 indicates a dwelling on the site with a detached kitchen and a cobbler shop standing next to the house. By the time the 1907 map was printed the cobbler shop had been removed. Although the house has been extensively renewed inside, the basic stepped exterior was maintained, and original materials were kept when possible. The house adds to the period character of Water Street and also serves as a prominent anchor for this intersection.

## HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The age and history of the single-story wrought-nail frame building that is buried within this two-story house is somewhat clouded, but the best argument places it on the property of John Dorgan as a utility building, ~~perhaps also dealing with shop.~~ John Dorgan purchased Lot 58 in 1784 two years after he had acquired Lot 57 from Jonathan Spencer. John Dorgan mortgaged the two lots in 1808, and in 1831 the property was sold at the courthouse door in Easton to John Ledenham.(50/127) The present configuration of the house was achieved during the late nineteenth century when the corner lot was owned by Oliver and Rachel Lednum Fairbank. The Fairbank family owned the property until 1984. (591/252)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. T-637

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant

date 9/8/88

street &amp; number P. O. Box 5

telephone 301-651-1094

city or town Westover,

state MD 21871

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

YEAR: 1984 VOL: 591 PAGE: 252

FROM: Heirs of Elsie H. Fairbank PRICE:

TO: Dorothy B. Kolva

NOTES All that lot on the East side of Water Street Street , 6,431 square feet more or less. Plat is 62/30.

Conveyed by D. Hughes LeCompte to the children of Walter and Ella Fairbank, subject to a life estate of Elsie L. Fairbank 1936, 236/306. Also references in 1984, 587/484 by Lee S. Gillis (attached).

YEAR: 1936 VOL: 236 PAGE: 306

FROM: D. Hughes LeCompte and Dorothy B. LeCompte PRICE:

TO: Jewell Fairbank and others\*

NOTES The "others" are: Celea F. Smith, Rachel M. Seymour, Selina M. Fairbank, Lawrence L. Fairbank and Oliver T. Fairbank.

"All that lot described in deed 1936, 236/304.

YEAR: 1936 VOL: 236 PAGE: 304

FROM: Jewell Fairbank and others PRICE:

TO: D. Hughes LeCompte

NOTES "A portion of the lot described in deed 1832, 50/127 Farmers Bank of Maryland to John Ledenham".

The next two deeds concern two 38-foot lots sold by Rachel Lednum Fairbank after the death of her father prior to 1872.

YEAR: 1873 VOL: 79 PAGE: 245

FROM: Rachel and Oliver Fairbank PRICE: \$300

TO: John P. Jackson

NOTES This is the second 38 foot lot sold by Fairbank from their part of the original lot 58. It begins at Jasper Y. Tarr and runs 38 feet West on Chestnut to the remaining Fairbank property. This lot (which once had a small house on it) was bought by Owen C. Blades in 1926 and combined with the Tarr lot which Blades purchased in 1930.

YEAR: 1872 VOL: 78 PAGE: 228

FROM: Oliver and Rachel Fairbank (formerly Rachel Lednum)\* PRICE: \$50

TO: Jasper Y. Tarr

NOTES \*Lydia Tarr, Rachel Lednum's mother was also on the deed. The deed is for a lot 38 feet by 60 feet beginning at a lot owned by Jesse Bloodsworth (the original Dorgan half of lot 58 which extended to the water). The 38 feet extended West on Chestnut from Bloodsworth to the remainder of lot 58 reserved by Fairbank.

YEAR: 1832 VOL: 50 PAGE: 127

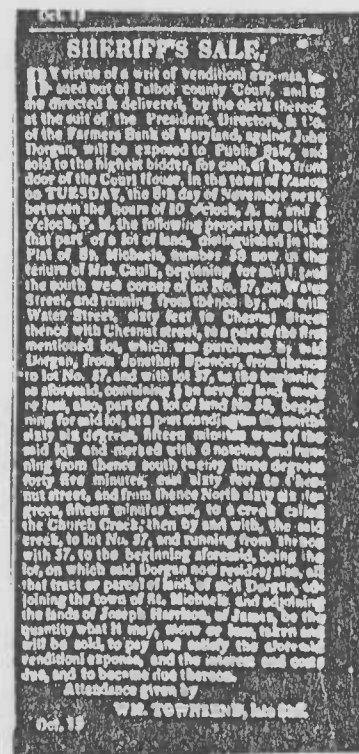
FROM: Farmers Bank of Maryland PRICE: \$100

TO: John Ledenham

NOTES "All that lot or parcel of land or ground...that is included or contained ...in a deed Thomas Groves, Innholder to John Dorgan, Blacksmith 1784". Same as lot number 58. Begins SW corner of lot 57 on Water Street; run with Water Street 60 feet to Chestnut Street; run with Chestnut Street to part of the same lot purchased by John Dorgan from Jonathan Spencer; then to number 57; with 57 to the beginning.

This lot was mortgaged by John Dorgan, Shipright to the Farmers Bank 1808, 33/27 and was sold at the Courthouse Door in 1831.

Dorgan had purchased lot 58 in two parts: in 1782, 21/265 he had bought the lower half of the lot from Jonathan Spencer; in 1784, 21/423 he bought the upper half from Thomas Groves



YEAR: 1808 VOL: 33 PAGE: 27 (Mortgage)

FROM: John Dorgan PRICE: \$500

TO: Farmers Bank

NOTES "All that lot...distinguished on the plat by number 58 now in the tenure and occupation of said John Dorgan according to a description contained in a deed from Thomas Groves to John Dorgan bearing date June 19, 1784". (Security thus applies only to the Water Street end of the lot)

YEAR: 1784 VOL: 21 PAGE: 423

FROM: Thomas Groves, Innholder PRICE: p40sp

TO: John Dorgan, Blacksmith

NOTES "All that part of a lot of land distinguished on the plat St. Michaels number 58 now in the tenure and occupation of a certain William Mason" Begins at the SW corner of lot 57 on Water Street; with Water Street 60' to Chestnut Street; with Chestnut Street to "a part of the first mentioned lot which was purchased by said Dorgan from Jonathan Spencer"; from there to lot 57 and with 57 to the beginning. Made 19 June 1784.

YEAR: 1783 VOL: 21 PAGE: 347

FROM: Jonathan Spencer, Shipwright PRICE: p50 cm

TO: Thomas Groves, Innholder

NOTES "One lot of land distinguished on the plat St. Michaels number 58". Begins at a post on the SW corner of lot 57 on Water Street; run with Water Street 60' to Chestnut Street; from there by and with Chestnut Street N 66 15" E 161 1/2'; then N 23 45' W 60' to lot 57; with 57 to beginning. 1/2 acre. Made 3 May 1783.

YEAR: 1782 VOL: 21 PAGE: 263

FROM: James Braddock, Gent. PRICE: p100 sp

TO: Jonathan Spencer, Shipwright

NOTES "One lot of land distinguished on the plat St. Michaels number 58..." Begins at the SW corner of lot 57; runs 60 feet to Chestnut Street; then to the creek. Distance not specified. No mention of Water Street). Deed made 15 June 1782.

This lot is part of a tract of 50 acres called "The Beach" patented to John Hollingsworth in 1665. It was bought by James Braddock at the "auction" of Philip Wetheral's real estate in 1778 and was the last of the 58 numbered lots on Braddock's original plat of St. Michaels. This plat was lost before 1804.

ST. MARY'S SQ.

52

N. GATE

S. GATE

CHESTNUT

WATER

1896

1897

SANBORN 1896 T-637

HARRISON

ONE

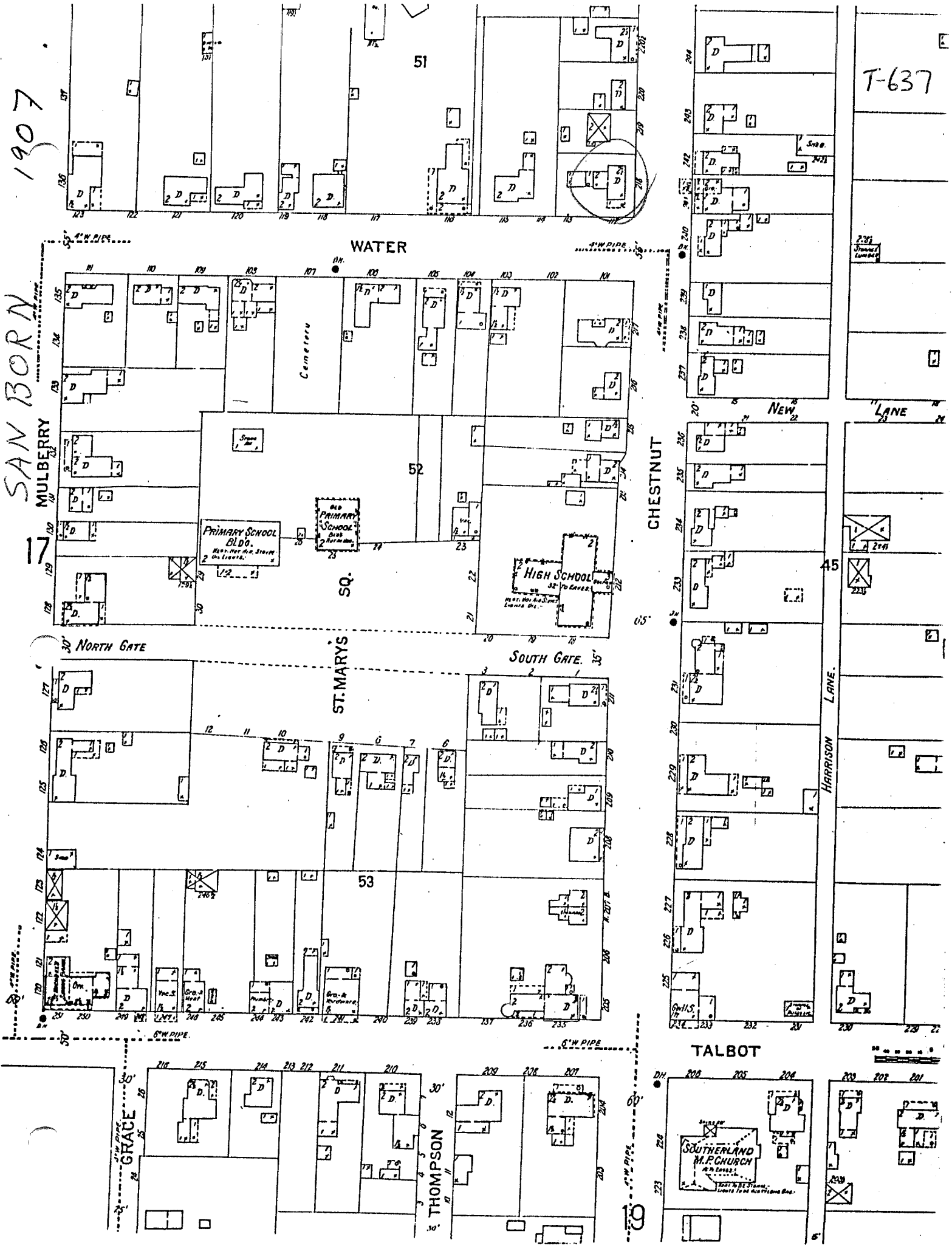
1907

SAN BORN

17

GRACE

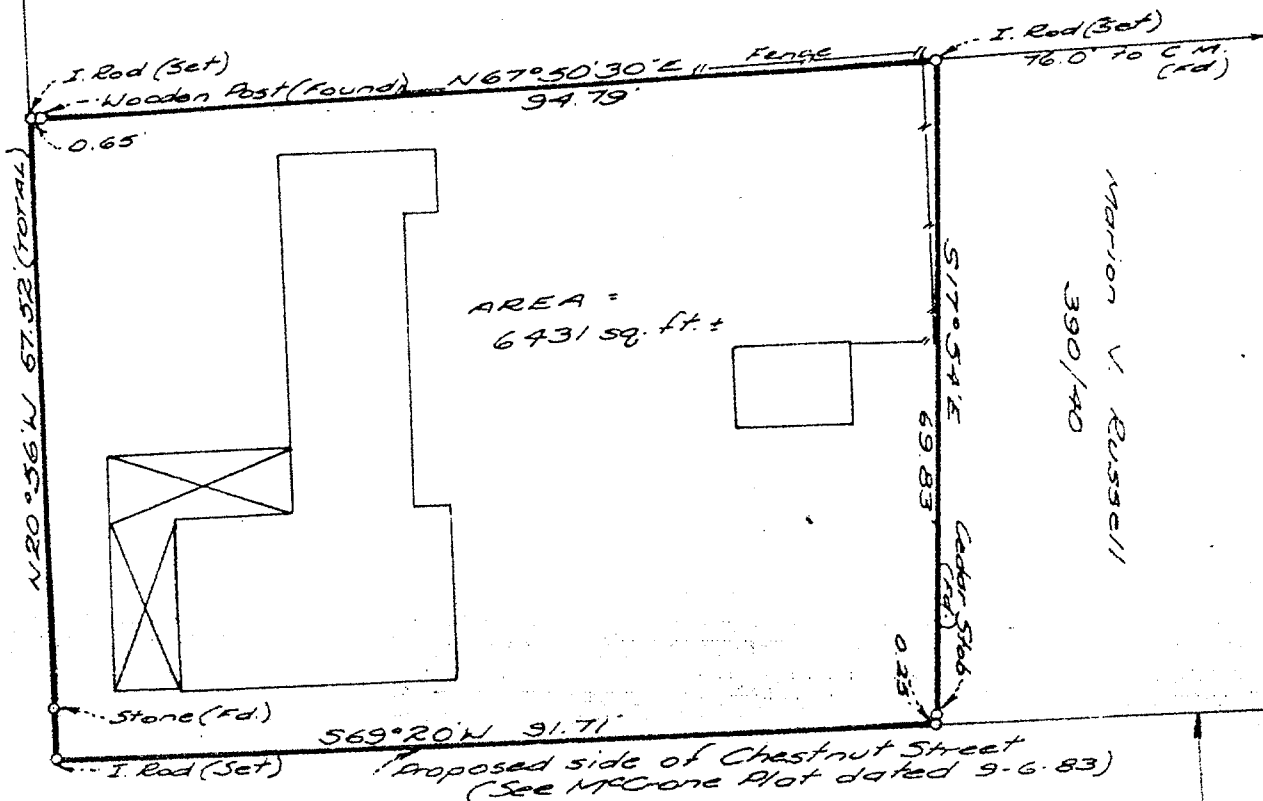
THOMPSON



T-637

Grace L. McSteen et al.  
207/79

WATER STREET



CHESTNUT STREET

48'

PLAT OF A SURVEY

OF THE LAND OF

THE ESTATE OF

ELSIE H. FAIRCANK

TOWN OF ST. MICHAELS, TALBOT CO., MD.

**MC CRONE**

Engineers • Planners  
Surveyors  
Annapolis, Maryland  
Centreville - Chestertown - Denton - Easton  
Elkton - Leonardtown - Prince Frederick

DRAWN BY EAP

SCALE 1" = 20'

DATE MAR 1984

JOB NO 510106783

FOLDER 5826

T-637

RE: ELSIE L. FAIRBANK RESIDENCE PROPERTY - ST. MICHAELS, MARYLAND

PREPARED BY LEE S. GILLIS, ATTORNEY AT LAW, EASTON, MARYLAND

Property examined was mentioned in Deed from Farmers Bank to John Leadenham (also known as John Lednum), dated March 12, 1832, and recorded in Liber J.L. No. 50, folio 127, being described therein as Lot No. 58 on the plat of St. Michaels recorded in Plat Record No. 1, at folio 243.

(Note: All Libers herein mentioned being Land Records of Talbot County unless otherwise specified.)

John Lednum died prior to 1872, intestate, leaving as his only heir-at-law and next-of-kin, Rachel Lednum Fairbank, his daughter.

Subsequent thereto, by Deed dated July 24, 1872, and recorded in Liber No. 79, folio 245, Rachel Fairbank conveyed a portion of this property to one John P. Jackson, the portion conveyed being a lot 37' x 60'.

Rachel Lednum Fairbank died intestate in September, 1926, leaving as her only heirs-at-law and next-of-kin, her three sons:

(1) OLIVER T. FAIRBANK                      (2) WALTER FAIRBANK                      (3) LAWRENCE L. FAIRBANK

Walter Fairbank died 12/30/26, leaving a Will (recorded among the Wills Record Books in Liber 21, at folio 321) whereby he devised all his property to his widow, Ella Fairbank.

In 1936, a Deed dated 3/28/36 and recorded 236/304, was executed by Oliver T. Fairbank, Lawrence L. Fairbank and the six children of Walter and Ella Fairbank (Jewell Fairbank, Ella F. Smith, Albert L. Fairbank, Selina (or Lena) Fairbank, Rachel F. Seymour and Millard C. Fairbank) to D. Hughes LeCompte, who by Deed the same date, recorded 236/306, re-conveyed the property to Jewell, Millard, Albert, Ella, Rachel, Selina, Lawrence and Oliver, as tenants in common, with life estate in Elsie L. Fairbank.

HOWEVER (and these are the writer's observations and comments), the six children of Walter and Ella had no interest in this property at the time the same was conveyed to LeCompte, the interest of Walter Fairbank in and to the same having been Willed to his widow, Ella Fairbank, upon his death 12/30/26, the Will being recorded in Wills Record No. 21, folio 321. She did not sign the Deed to LeCompte.

Therefore, the Deed to LeCompte (and the one from him) conveyed only a 2/3rds interest in the property, and Oliver, Lawrence and each of the six children named received a 1/8th of 2/3rds, or 2/24ths of the whole fee. The other 1/3 remained vested in Ella until her death in 1951.

As to the 2/24ths interest of Oliver T. Fairbank (the elder), upon his death, intestate, more than 20 years ago, a 1/24th interest vested in Oliver T. Fairbank (the younger) and a 1/24th interest vested in his other son, Alfred R. Fairbank, and upon the deaths of Oliver T. (the younger) 12/12/76, and Alfred R. 4/17/78, their respective interests became vested in their respective Personal Representatives. If none have been appointed, it will be necessary that this be done in order to transfer their interests in the property.

ELSIE L. FAIRBANK RESIDENCE - PAGE 2

As to the 2/24th interest of Albert L. Fairbank, the same was devised to his wife, Emily, by his Last Will and Testament recorded Wills Record 25, folio 178, which, upon the death of Emily (then Stants) 11/14/77 became vested in her Personal Representatives, Frank E. Mason, Jr. and Elsie W. Huntman - see Will recorded W.R. No. 40, folio 14. (Elsie W. Huntman sole beneficiary)

As to the 2/24th interest of Lawrence, upon his death, intestate, more than 20 years ago, without descendants, vested in his widow, the said Elsie L. Fairbank, who died January, 1984 - Personal Representatives to be appointed.

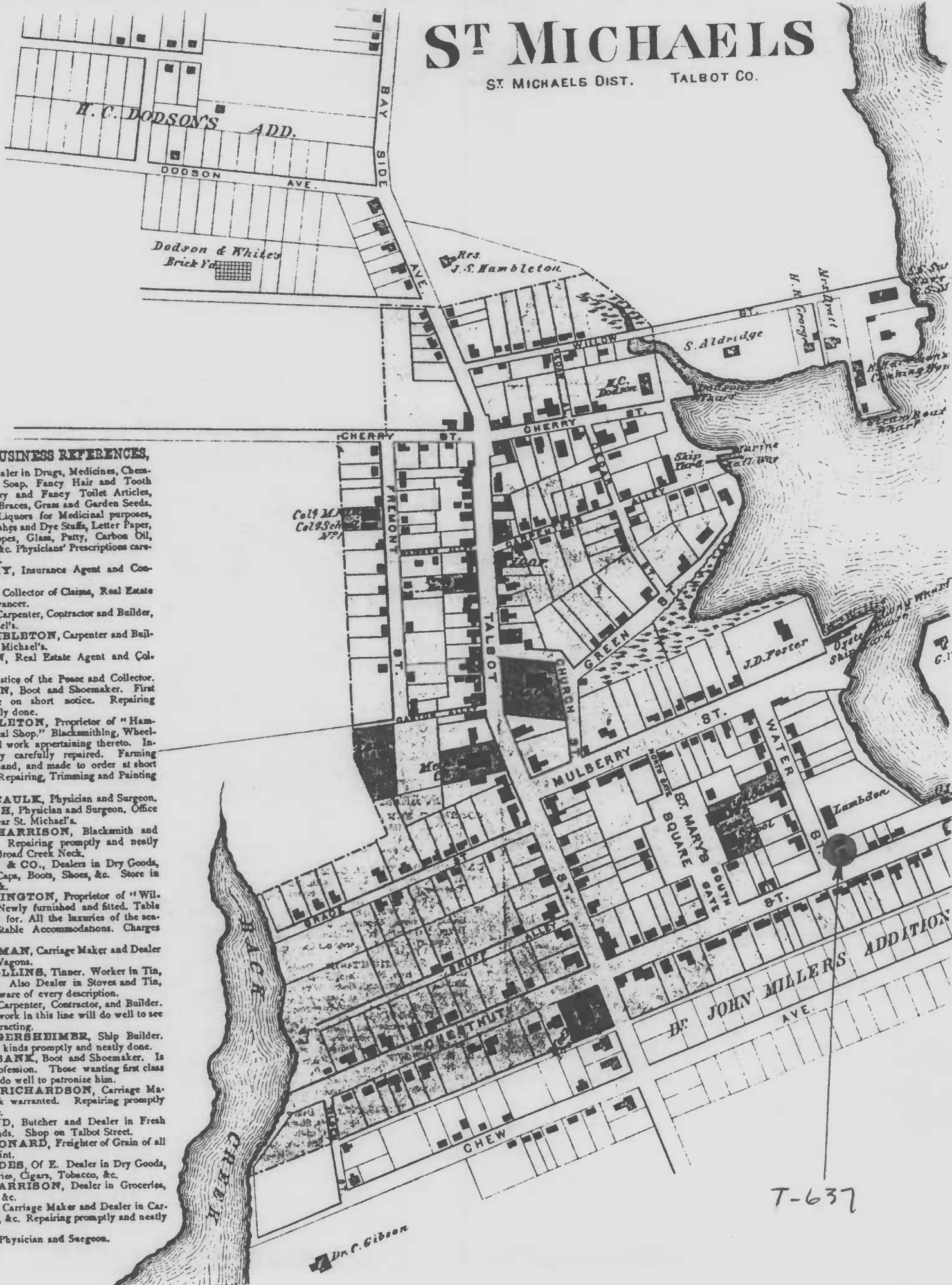
By Will (27/301) Ella Fairbank (widow of Walter), who died 5/25/51, left her 1/3rd interest in the property to her five children, Lena, Ella, Rachel, Millard and Jewell.

As a result of the Will, each of the 5 children received a 1/15th interest from their Mother.

See attached sheet as to holdings of the children of Ella.

# ST MICHAELS

ST. MICHAELS DIST. TALBOT CO.



T-637

## ST. MICHAEL'S BUSINESS REFERENCES.

**DODSON**, Dealer in Drugs, Medicines, Chemicals, Fine Toilet Soap, Fancy Hair and Tooth Brushes, Perfumery and Fancy Toilet Articles, Cigars, Wines and Liquors for Medicinal purposes, Oils, Varnishes and Dye Stuffs, Letter Paper, Envelopes, Ink, Envelopes, Glass, Putty, Carbon Oil, Nails, Chimneys, &c. Physicians' Prescriptions carefully Compounded.

**HADDADWAY**, Insurance Agent and Conveyancer.

**W. DEAN**, Collector of Claims, Real Estate Agent and Conveyancer.

**BYOTT**, Carpenter, Contractor and Builder, Shop at St. Michael's.

**ED H. HAMBLETON**, Carpenter and Builder, Shop at St. Michael's.

**SB B. ON**, Real Estate Agent and Collector of Taxes.

**SPALDING**, Justice of the Peace and Collector.

**SMITHMAN**, Boot and Shoemaker. First class work done on short notice. Repairing promptly and neatly done.

**B. HAMBLETON**, Proprietor of "Hambleton's Mechanical Shop." Blacksmithing, Wheelwrighting, and all work appertaining thereto. In-estate Machinery carefully repaired. Farming implements on hand, and made to order at short notice. Carriage Repairing, Trimming and Painting Specially.

**WILLIAM CAULK**, Physician and Surgeon.

**JAMES BETH**, Physician and Surgeon. Office and Residence near St. Michael's.

**LIAM S. HARRISON**, Blacksmith and Wagon Maker. Repairing promptly and neatly done. Shop in Broad Creek Neck.

**NEAVITT & CO.**, Dealers in Dry Goods, Notions, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, &c. Store in Broad Creek Neck.

**N T. HARRINGTON**, Proprietor of "Williams House." Newly furnished and fitted. Table carefully catered for. All the luxuries of the season. Ample Stable Accommodations. Charges moderate.

**NIEL J. KILMAN**, Carriage Maker and Dealer in all kinds of Wagons.

**ORGE W. COLLINS**, Tinner. Worker in Tin, Sheet Iron, &c. Also Dealer in Stoves and Tin, and Sheet Iron ware of every description.

**E. BLADES**, Carpenter, Contractor, and Builder. Persons having work in this line will do well to see him before contracting.

**JEFF HERGERSHEIMER**, Ship Builder. Repairing of all kinds promptly and neatly done.

**IVER FAIRBANK**, Boot and Shoemaker. Is skilful in his profession. Those wanting first class work done will do well to patronize him.

**RRISON & RICHARDSON**, Carriage Makers. All work warranted. Repairing promptly and neatly done.

**J. HOLLAND**, Butcher and Dealer in Fresh Meats of all kinds. Shop on Talbot Street.

**PT. C. R. LEONARD**, Freightor of Grain of all kinds to any point.

**THOMAS BLADES**, Of E. Dealer in Dry Goods, Notions, Cigars, Cigars, Tobacco, &c.

**SEMI HARRISON**, Dealer in Groceries, Confectionery, &c.

**S. KILMON**, Carriage Maker and Dealer in Carriages, Wagons, &c. Repairing promptly and neatly done.

**A. DODSON** Physician and Surgeon.

Dr. C. Gibson



T-637  
FAIRBANK HOUSE  
St. Michaels, MD Quadrangle  
1942



T-637

FAIRBANK HOUSE

St. Michaels, Talbot County, MD

West elevation

6/88, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust



T-637

FAIRBANK HOUSE

St. Michaels, Talbot County, MD

Southwest elevation

6/88, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust